

Memorandum

TO: Greg Crouch, Faculty Senate Chair

FROM: Mary F. Wack, Vice Provost for Academic Engagement and Student Achievement
Kimberly Green, Chair of the Liaison Council for Undergraduate Program Assessment, and
Director of the Office of Assessment of Teaching and Learning

DATE: February 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Update requested to EPPM Section 11 on Assessment

Request Change to Educational Policies and Procedures Manual

We request that EPPM Section 11, regarding assessment of student learning by academic programs, be amended to explicitly protect individuals and programs doing this important work from inappropriate and punitive use of assessment results, as well as to communicate the value and purpose of assessment at Washington State University. This change was unanimously supported by the Liaison Council for Undergraduate Program Assessment at the 2/6/20 meeting.

Rationale

We desire to make explicit the value of genuine assessment of student learning, which can identify areas of weakness as well as strengths, in order to guide program efforts that support quality educational offerings at WSU.

Change: add paragraph to EPPM Section 11.4 as indicated below

11.4 Purpose

The purpose for program assessment of student learning is to provide an accurate and honest appraisal of: the extent to which students fully meet expected program-level learning outcomes; where there is room for improvement; and the strategies faculty, departments, colleges, and WSU are using to support and improve student learning. Assessment results can provide valuable information to faculty and program leadership to assist them in making informed decisions regarding their curricula and programs. WSU seeks to ensure that assessment occurs consistently and systematically and that its results contribute to university-wide planning that supports quality education.

To underscore the value of genuine inquiry into student learning achievement that supports educational quality at WSU, the Faculty agree that 1) assessment results identifying areas for improvement should be viewed positively, as an opportunity, and should never be used punitively; that 2) assessment results should not be used to evaluate an individual student, faculty member, or staff member; and that 3) assessment results by themselves should not be used for high-stakes decisions, such as program closure.

We thank you for your consideration.